



Central Coast Humane Society

Serving the Animals of Lincoln County Since 1974

www.centralcoasthumanesociety.com



Fall 2012

A Tale of Two Kitties

Once upon a time, a lady (author of this article) had two cats. One of them sadly passed away of old-age complications, leaving the other cat all by his lonesome.

The Lady decided to visit the Lincoln County Animal Shelter to find a pal for her remaining kitty. She was greeted by friendly staff including an awesome volunteer named Kathe. Kathe introduced her to many fine felines and helped her narrow it down to two possibilities.

The first was a charming little gal named "Skye" – a very young, black cat who had already proven she had a big heart. Skye had kittens of her own, who had been weaned, but had no objection being a stepmom-nurse to another litter that had no mom. The Shelter folks were very grateful for Skye's generosity!

Kathe, in presenting Skye, displayed all the earmarks of having been a top-producer saleswoman in a previous life. In a short time, Kathe convinced The Lady that Skye was the Very Best Cat in the Whole World. The fact that The Lady's other cat was also black was an additional selling point. Since black cats are hard to place, it would be beneficial for Skye to escape that superstitious stigma as quickly as possible.

The other contender was "Jessica." An older cat (maybe 8?) with medium-length hair, a huge fluffy tail and beautiful tortoise shell markings. Jessica was gorgeous-looking, but was a "lone wolf," and did not go all purry and lovey-dovey when meeting The Lady. In fact, she was in the Cattery, perched high up on a window sill – turning up her nose at the rest of her roommates – Kathe explained that Jessica was not a "lap cat."



Missy, the other Queen of the House



Skye, whose named was changed to Elvira

Well, one would think that little Skye would be the winner, but that's not the way it turned out.

Yes, Skye went home with The Lady, but Jessica also joined the entourage. The Lady felt that Jessica, although an older cat with a few problems, deserved an equal chance. A third kitty would not present difficulty in a home where there was plenty of room for all.

First order of business – names. Skye got renamed "Elvira." Truthfully, and as the old saying goes, you can call Elvira anything you want, just as long as you "don't call her too late for dinner." Jessica was not responding to her temporary name, so The Lady tried calling her by a variety of names. Jessica immediately responded to "Missy," and so it was. (Probably had to do with the hissy-sounding "double-s" – maybe The Lady was speaking in cat language and didn't know it?) After Missy's first vet examination (part of the nice adoption package) it turned out she was only about 6, instead of 8. What female wouldn't enjoy that bit of good news?? (By the way...Missy's official full name is "Princess Pissy Missy Prima Dona von Diva"...and you will soon see why...)

Within 24 hours of their arrival, life got VERY interesting for The Lady. Elvira and Missy were temporarily housed in a spare bedroom to help them adjust. Elvira adapted quickly (within the next 24 hours) and was released to roam her forever home at will.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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PROGRAMS OFFERED

Spay/Neuter Assistance
Emergency Medical
Assistance
Population Assistance
Animal Welfare
NEST
Shots Assistance
Community Cat Assistance/
Food Assistance
Humane Education

**Call (541) 265- 3719 for
more information**

**Spay Neuter assistance
is now available by
phoning our number
-- 541 265-3719. Call us
and someone will call you
back. Be sure to speak
clearly when you leave
your message.**



*CCHS President Kathe Stander's
foster kitty Nimbus*

President's letter

As you can tell, the above photo, for a change, is not of me. Nimbus is my 33rd foster and will soon be seeking a “fur-ever” home with a kind, loving human. Nimbus is the one surviving kitten from a community colony, so he’s had a shaky start. But with lots of attention he has become incredibly social and very spunky. He loves to play with a variety of toys and has a personality that’s bigger than all outdoors! He’s also very healthy. If you can give him that special home, please call us.

You may have been hearing some of the scuttlebutt but it is apparent that the County Commissioners will be presenting on the ballot this fall the tax proposal to make our current animal services tax levy a permanent Animal Services and Welfare tax district. The tax will stay the same, so the only difference is that the tax won’t need to be renewed every five years. A tax district will be established with a committee appointed to provide guidance and advice for the issuance of the tax district funds. This gives our Lincoln County Animal Shelter a permanent source of sustainable funding to continue all the work they do on behalf of our homeless animals. The committee is currently composed of representatives from the sheriff’s office, FOLCAS and CCHS, along with two reps from the general public. The composition most likely will stay the same. Please consider giving this ballot measure your complete support.

I know it’s technically not fall yet, but we will soon be approaching the holiday season. For those of you who shop early and need to find gifts for those people who truly have everything, we have a suggestion — a donation in your honoree’s name, with a holiday card sent in your name. We also have our wonderful t-shirts, which make great gifts. Just some thoughts as we approach the holidays!

CCHS does not do big, splashy fundraising events, as you know. There are many non-profits in the area that do that very successfully. However, we do have one annual fundraiser upon which we rely for shoring up our bank account — our Catnip Tea and Doggone Good Unparty. It’s a mailer, so you don’t have to attend any events, and it’s that time of year. Please be looking in your mail — or allow your cat to find that catnip tea bag! Our other funding comes from our membership drive, our t-shirt sales and the generosity of granting foundations (money which is becoming more difficult to find due to the economy).

CCHS has had to make some changes in budget money available for our various programs. Our spay/neuter voucher program is currently on hiatus while we distribute that money to our animal welfare fund, where the need is greatest. However, anyone needing assistance with spay/neuter costs just needs to call us directly — just ask about our population assistance fund.

Thank you all for your interest in CCHS and in helping the animals outside the shelter system!

*Kathe Stander
President*

Changes in CCHS Programs

Due to budget constraints, we have had to make some changes to the programs we offer. We have eliminated the \$15 vouchers. While they might have served a purpose as “motivators” we found that the majority of folks using them could afford to alter their pets without our assistance. We also pulled the emergency medical loans back “in house” and combined that program with our animal welfare program.

The current list of programs is as follows:

Community Cats: The most effective way to handle this issue is to TNR - trap, neuter, and return the animals to their *home*. We have traps to loan and have limited funds to help have the cats altered once people trap them.

Spay / Neuter: We have a population assistance program that assists people in getting their animals altered. We will come to an agreement as to what percentage a person can pay and we will pay the remainder. We currently have a grant that will enable us to help folks have their dog spayed or neutered and we have limited funds to help alter pet cats.

Nest: We provide one time doses of basics like flea meds, worm meds or vaccinations to help people get over a temporary economic shortfall.

Emergency Medical Loans/Animal Welfare: We offer a \$50 loan when an emergency arises and your funds are short. We ask that you pay us back (monthly payments are fine) so that we can help others. We also deal with larger medical issues on a case by case basis through our animal welfare program. This program has been the hardest hit in recent months as folks facing an expensive medical issue with a pet find that they simply don't have the necessary funds. As these are often of an urgent nature, it seemed natural to combine these two funds.

Rehoming: Sometimes life just happens and we find we need to give up a beloved family pet. If you plan ahead so that you can keep your pet until a home is found, we can help. We advertise your pet on petfinder.com and on our web site and face book page. Email us a photo, short bio and your contact information. You will deal directly with potential adopters so that you can screen them and ensure your pet goes to a good, safe and nurturing home.

Humane Education: We provide the magazine Kind News once a month to every elementary classroom in Lincoln County. We also have volunteers available to make presentations to individual classes. Our goal is to ensure that the next generation learns kindness and compassion for the animals.

To enquire about any of our programs call 541-265-3719. A volunteer checks for messages in the afternoon Mondays through Fridays and returns the calls. Please be patient as we are all volunteers.

Top Reasons Given Why People Don't Alter Pets

1. Just one litter won't hurt. Studies show that virtually the entire pet overpopulation problem stems from the “just one litter” mentality. Every day, kittens are turned into rescue organizations and pet shops because the owners couldn't find homes for them. Just one litter does hurt.

2. A cat should have at least one litter for health reasons. This argument is indefensible - both medically and ethically. There are absolutely no medical advantages to having a litter. While pregnancy is a natural process, it is not without stress and effort and risks to the mother's own health. There is a great deal of physiological stress on the mother when the babies are finally taken away from her.

3. But I have a male cat -- he won't leave me with any kittens. That's just irresponsible. Since he is likely to leave them with someone else, you're just leaving the problem in someone else's home. As an entire Tom cat he is in the highest risk group, for getting and spreading FIV (Feline AIDs virus), and other diseases.

4. My mother cat is so special, we can find “good” homes for the kittens. You may have one or two friends who mentioned they'd like a kitten - what will you do if your mother cat produces 7 babies? Take the leftovers to the pet shop? What about all the kittens and cats already there hoping for good homes, do you want to take their chance away?

5. My cat is so cute and unique; there should be more of her.

6. I want my children to witness the miracle of birth. Oh yes? Are you also going to take your children to the vet clinic or animal control so they can witness the tragedy of death?

7. It's not natural to neuter animals. Street or feral cats are not naturally occurring wild animals like sparrows or lizards. There hasn't been anything natural about these cats since they were domesticated.

8. I just couldn't look my male cat in the eye if I had him castrated. You're anthropomorphizing (i.e. giving the animal, human feelings). This is your problem, not his.

9. Early spay/neuter will stunt my pet's growth. No. Your puppy/kitten will develop normally. In fact, young animals also tend to recover from surgery more rapidly than older animals. Male cats neutered at a young age will avoid “tomcat jowls” and the undesirable behaviors associated with intact males, like spraying urine and fighting.

10. Neutering my pet will change its personality and make him/her fat and lazy. No. The primary influence on an animal's personality is the care with which it is raised. As for getting fat, the number one cause is a simple imbalance between diet and exercise!

Be part of the solution, not the problem!

The Board: Who We Are



CCHS President Kathe Stander and fosters

I moved to Oregon in 2005 and became involved with the Lincoln County Animal Shelter almost immediately. I had served on the board of the humane society in central Arizona – which ran the local animal shelter – and just assumed that volunteering at LCAS would be the same as getting involved in the local humane society.

Wrong! Central Coast Humane Society is a different animal (no pun intended!), as LCAS is run by the sheriff's office. So CCHS can focus on other, community-oriented programs. I liked that! No begging for money to run a shelter – yeah!

I started attending CCHS board meetings in 2006 while continuing to volunteer at the animal shelter. At that time, CCHS did run the volunteer program at the shelter, so I had all my toes in both ponds.

I've been president for the past few years and am blessed to have a remarkable board with whom to serve – makes my job SO easy! I also do fostering of felines, both for CCHS and for LCAS, and am on my 33rd GROUP of cats/kittens; some are single but most come as a herd! You can tell by the above photo.

I'm also involved in adoption outreach, which includes offsite events such as bank visits and the farmers' market. My new love is driving our van! I assist in delivering cat kibble to our various cat colonies and food banks – and any other reason to get behind the wheel!

My background is in human resources as a consultant, but my passion has always been animals. Retirement has allowed me to focus my time on that passion and ensure the best possible lives for all animals – wild, feral and tame.

by Kathe Stander

A Tale of Two Kitties cont's

Missy, however, was another story. She hid under the bed and refused to come out...even for water or food. The Lady was driven to shoving bowls of water and food under the bed in the hopes Missy would get some nourishment. Unfortunately, Missy was also relieving herself under the bed...**not** a good thing!

Finally, after one week, The Lady had enough. Missy would NOT be coaxed out, and The Lady did not want to stress her even further by dragging her out. So, the Lady completely dismantled and removed the bed. This left a very startled Missy staring at the ceiling, probably thinking, "Where's the roof of my hidey-hole???"

Missy spent another week in the room until The Lady decided the time had come to release her into the house to let things fall where they may. It took several months for Missy to realize she was finally in a safe place. She initially shunned not only The Lady, but also Elvira and the other cat, Andy. The Lady did not worry about this – not every cat is meant to be a social being that can star in Meow Mix commercials. What matters is that they are comfortable and cared for.

Elvira continued to be easy-going, and eventually became friends with Andy – chasing each other through the house, or playing "let's touch noses." Over time, Missy decided her forever home wasn't so bad after all. She is now an occasional lap-cat, happily purrs when patted or scratched, and has cleverly trained The Lady to feed her kitty treats upon a special "meow" command. She gets along with Andy, except for the rare hissing, yowling-that-could-shatter-glass argument, which is no more than (as William Shakespeare wisely observed) "much sound and fury, signifying nothing"

Missy still has problems. She eats and drinks too quickly and as a result, is prone to throwing it right back up. She sometimes forgets where the litter box is and deposits her "treasures" elsewhere. She used to climb up to high places, take a nap, and then fall off her perch while asleep. Fortunately, this problem has been mostly resolved by Missy herself. Through trial and error, she learned sleeping in high places was not a good idea.

Last year, The Lady had to go away for a week. Because of Missy's special needs, she was boarded. The Lady warned the kennel owners about Missy's various "quirks." Upon return, she asked the owners how it went. They happily exclaimed, "Oh! She was just FABULOUS! She only threw up ONCE!!" (One must be grateful for the small things.)

The Lady does not mind these little issues. No one is perfect, but everyone deserves a forever home. It's just a matter of what the prospective owner is realistically willing to deal with or adjust to. They might be surprised to discover the many rewards they will gain if they are willing to be flexible.

And thus ends the Tale of Two Kitties -- where everyone Lives Happily Ever After.

by Joanne Quinlan

Little Bit



My sister and I were out walking my neighborhood when she spotted this little kitten running into objects. Just then a lady walked up from the beach and said it had been on their porch this morning but wasn't hers.

Pamela and I were able to catch it as it couldn't see. Its eyes were crusted shut. It was pretty tame and very happy to have a secure place in my arms. We looked around but couldn't see a mom or other babies. As we were across the street from a place where a CCHS member has been trapping cats for spay/neuter, I figured it must be from that group.

We brought the tiny kitten home and fed and watered it, set up a potty box, cleaned its eyes and made it a bed. It was shaking trying to stand up, it was so weak. It ate, drank, pooped and slept. I named it "Little Bit" as it was so tiny.

On Monday we took it to Lincoln City Animal Clinic. It weighed just 17 oz. Dr. Hoffman said it was about 6 weeks old. She cleaned its eyes, gave us some eye drops and antibiotics. She thought it would recuperate fine — just needed food and water.

Since Monday Little Bit has eaten a can of kitten food a day. We pour KMR over it for more nutrition and liquid. We've used almost a half a case so far!

After about 3-4 days Little Bit started chasing toys around the bathroom — dubbed the "Romper Room". It's affectionate (loves to be near people) and has a soft purr. His favorite toys are "fluff" balls and stuffed animals. LB loves to chase my cats around (although they roll their eyes and think he's a nuisance). LB sleeps with my very large tabby, Emily — now nicknamed "Auntie Em". LB plays "king of the mountain" and watches TV. Watching the fan though makes him dizzy.

As soon as LB grows a bit, he will be neutered and receive his vaccinations. **READY TO ADOPT HIM?** He has gorgeous mint green eyes — and he knows he is really cute!

Call foster mom Barbara at 541-994-5349.

by Barb Perry

Special Friends and Memorials



Diane Galloway

Recently with the passing of Diane Galloway after a battle with cancer, our community has lost a very tremendous friend to all the needy animals in the Lincoln City, Taft area.

Diane managed the largest known community cat colony in Lincoln County — approximately 80 to 90 cats. Over a period of about two years, with the help of CCHS, she was responsible for getting them spayed and neutered.

Not only did she make sure that they had food and clean water daily, but she also saw that they had clean bedding in their kitty yurts. She knew every cat in the area, had names for each and every one of them; Big Head, Mama Ferocious, Grease Trap, Pretty Girl, etc. Diane loved all her many cats, and they loved her in return, and would follow her around when she was outside.

In addition to caring for all her kitty friends Diane worked a full time job in the Bingo Dept at the Casino!

Diane will be greatly missed by all at Central Coast Humane Society, by all who knew her in the community, and also by her extended kitty family.

by Don Elmore

Remembering Alvin

In April of 2011, my beloved cat Alvin went over the rainbow bridge. He had been my companion for over 18 years and I still miss him. When I think about him, I go to our web site, www.centralcoasthumane.com and go to the memory garden. I click on his name under his picture and read what I wrote shortly after he passed. It gives me great comfort.

You can place an animal in the Memory Garden by going to the web site. Just use Paypal to make a \$10 donation, then email a picture and a description to us at centralcoasths@yahoo.com. We will place it on the web site as soon as we receive it.

by Lee Smith



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Current Resident or

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

(And if you have an e-mail address, would you please let us know it? We will never share this, or any other information about you, with anyone. We are simply thinking of sending the newsletter, and important communications, to our members via e-mail to save on postage and printing.)

I would like to renew my membership for 2012, thereby helping to provide services to needy animals.

Enclosed is my check for:

- \$15 Junior/Senior Member \$25 Basic Member \$50 Contributing Member \$100 Sustaining Member
 \$500 Patron Member \$1000 Life Member Other_____

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

E-Mail _____ Are you interested in volunteering for CCHS? Yes/No

